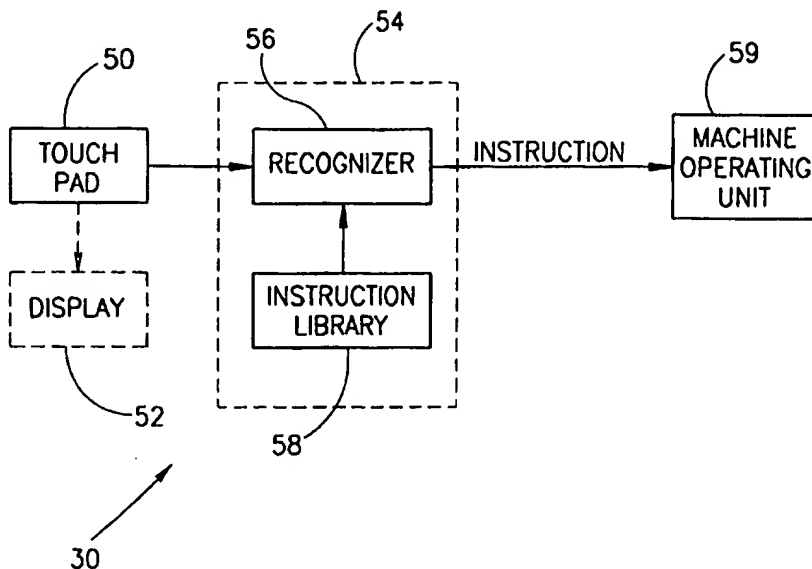




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(54) Title: AN INSTRUCTION AND/OR AN IDENTIFICATION INPUT UNIT



(57) Abstract

An instruction input unit for supplying operating instructions to a machine is provided. The unit includes a touchpad, an instruction library and a recognizer. The touchpad receives an input pattern from a user and the instruction library stores a multiplicity of operating instruction patterns. Each operating instruction pattern has an operating instruction associated therewith. The recognizer detects which of the multiplicity of operating instructions patterns the input pattern most closely matches and provides the operating instruction associated with the matched operating instruction pattern to the machine. The recognizer includes a handwriting recognizer for recognizing alphanumeric characters.

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AN INSTRUCTION AND/OR AN IDENTIFICATION INPUT UNIT

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to touchpad pointing devices generally and to their use as an instruction and/or identification input unit in particular.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5

Cursor pointing devices for computers are known in the art, the most common of which is a mouse. Typically, "mice" were peripheral devices kept on the side of the computer and often required a pad along which to slide. With the popularity of laptop computers and their continual reductions in size and weight,
10 other types of mice have been produced.

Fig. 1, to which reference is now made, illustrates a laptop computer 10 with a further type of cursor pointing device 12, known as a touchpad pointing device, and two selecting buttons 14. Although not shown, touchpad pointing devices can also be implemented as external devices connectable to a laptop or
15 desktop computer.

The touchpad pointing device 12 typically is a flat pad which identifies the location of a finger, labeled 16, thereon relative to the edges of the pad (i.e. absolute) or to the previous position (i.e. relative) of finger 16. The touchpad pointing device 12 also includes hardware (not shown) which translates the
20 current position (absolute or relative) to a position on the screen. Thus, as the finger 16 sketches a curve 20 on touchpad pointing device 12, a cursor 22 follows a similar curve 24 on a screen 26 of laptop computer 10. When the user has brought cursor 22 to a desired location, such as above the word "FILE" as shown, he executes the action by either pressing one of buttons 14 or tapping on
25 touchpad pointing device 12.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention is an instruction and/or identification unit which utilizes a touchpad pointing device as the input unit for receiving instruction and/or identification patterns. This is accomplished without changing any aspect of the operation of the touchpad pointing devices themselves.

There is therefore provided, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an instruction input unit for supplying operating instructions to a machine. The unit includes a touchpad, an instruction library and a recognizer. The touchpad receives an input pattern from a user and the instruction library stores a multiplicity of operating instruction patterns. Each operating instruction pattern has an operating instruction associated therewith. The recognizer detects which of the multiplicity of operating instructions patterns the input pattern most closely matches and provides the operating instruction associated with the matched operating instruction pattern to the machine.

Moreover, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the machine is an appliance and can be one of a microwave oven, a washing machine and a remote control unit.

Further, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the recognizer also includes a handwriting recognizer for recognizing alphanumeric characters.

The present invention also incorporates all machines having instruction input units such as are described hereinabove.

There is also provided, in accordance with a second preferred embodiment of the present invention, a shortcut input unit for providing telephone numbers to be dialed to a telephone. The shortcut input unit includes the touchpad, a shortcut library and a trainable recognizer. The shortcut library is capable of receiving and storing a multiplicity of shortcut patterns wherein each shortcut pattern has a telephone number associated therewith. The trainable recognizer has a training mode and a recognition mode. In the training mode, the trainable recognizer associates telephone numbers received from the user with

shortcut patterns received from the user via the touchpad. In the recognition mode, the trainable recognizer detects which of the multiplicity of shortcut patterns an input pattern received from the user most closely matches and provides the telephone number associated with the matched shortcut pattern to the telephone.

5 The user can provide the telephone numbers via a keypad or by writing the numbers on the touchpad which the trainable recognizer recognizes.

Additionally, in accordance with this preferred embodiment of the present invention, the telephone can be a cellular telephone, a wireless telephone and a desktop telephone.

10 The present invention also incorporates telephones having dialers and shortcut input units.

There is further provided, in accordance with a third preferred embodiment of the present invention, an identification unit which includes the touchpad, an identifier library and the recognizer. The identifier library stores at
15 least one identifier pattern and the recognizer detects if the input pattern matches one of the identifier patterns and provides an authorization signal only if a match is detected. The recognizer can be trainable, in which case, the identifier library is capable of receiving trained identifier patterns. The identifier pattern can be a signature.

20 Additionally, in accordance with this preferred embodiment of the present invention, the identification unit can be implemented in a lock which includes a locking mechanism which unlocks upon receipt of the authorization signal from the identification unit.

Moreover, in accordance with this preferred embodiment of the present
25 invention, the locking mechanism locks a door to a door frame. The door can be part of a car, a room or any other lockable unit. The room can be a hotel guest room.

There is also provided, in accordance with a further preferred embodiment of the present invention, a credit card authorizer for authorizing the
30 use of a credit card. The credit card has a memory strip which stores at least one identifier pattern. The authorizer includes the touchpad and a recognizer. The

recognizer detects if the input pattern matches one of the identifier patterns and provides an authorization signal only if a match is detected.

Moreover, in accordance with this preferred embodiment of the present invention, the credit card authorizer can be implemented in an automatic teller
5 machine.

Finally, in accordance with a further preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a credit card writer for writing information into a memory strip of a credit card. The credit card writer includes the touchpad and a credit card imprinter which imprints the input pattern into the memory strip of the
10 credit card.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

15 Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of a prior art touchpad pointing device forming part of a laptop computer;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustration of an instruction unit, constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

20 Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C are schematic illustrations of the instruction unit of Fig. 2 implemented in a microwave oven, a washing machine and a remote control unit, respectively;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram illustration of a shortcut input unit, constructed and operative in accordance with a second preferred embodiment of the present
25 invention, and operative with a dialer;

Figs. 5A and 5B are schematic illustrations of the shortcut input unit of Fig. 4 implemented in a desktop telephone and a cellular telephone, respectively;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram illustration of an identification unit, constructed and operative in accordance with a third preferred embodiment of the present
30 invention;

Figs. 7A and 7B are schematic illustrations of the identification unit of Fig. 6 implemented in a room door and a car door, respectively;

Figs. 8A and 8B are block diagram and schematic illustrations, respectively, of a credit card trainer, constructed and operative in accordance with
5 a fourth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a block diagram illustration of a credit card authenticator, constructed and operative in accordance with a fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

Figs. 10A and 10B are schematic illustrations of the credit card
10 authenticator of Fig. 9 implemented in a credit card authorizer and an automatic teller machine, respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference is now made to Fig. 2 which illustrates, in block diagram format, an instruction input unit **30** for supplying operating instructions to a machine, constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Reference is also made to Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C which illustrate the instruction input unit **30** implemented in a microwave oven **40**, a washing machine **42** and a remote control unit **44**. It will be appreciated that instruction input unit **30** can be implemented in any other appliance or machine which receives instructions.

Instruction input unit **30** typically comprises a touchpad, labeled **50**, an optional display **52** and a recognition unit **54**, which, in turn, comprises a recognizer **56** and an instruction library **58**. Recognizer **56** can be any suitable recognizer which receives the input pattern **48** and matches it to a previously stored pattern. For example, recognizer **56** can be any of those described in U.S. Patent Applications 08/282,187, 07/978,578, 08/528,293, 08/428,806 all assigned to the common assignee of the present invention and incorporated herein by reference.

Instruction library **58** stores a multiplicity of preset instruction patterns associated with a multiplicity of machine instructions, the latter to be provided to a machine operating unit **59** thereby to cause a desired action to occur. Machine operating unit **59** is a part of the machine into which instruction unit **30** is incorporated and is typically the unit which, in the prior art, received instructions from the user interface.

Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C show touchpad **50** and optional display **52** as user interface devices while recognition unit **54** is illustrated with hidden lines since it generally is found internal to the machine. Machine operating unit **59** is not shown in any of Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C since it is a part of the relevant machine.

Once a user draws a pattern on touchpad **50**, which he optionally views on display **52**, touchpad **50** provides the input pattern to recognizer **56** which attempts to match the input pattern to one of the instruction patterns stored in

instruction library 58. Recognizer 56 then provides the instruction associated with the matched instruction pattern to machine operating unit 59, thereby to command an operation of the machine or to provide the machine with operation information.

For example, Fig. 3A shows a user writing the letter "C" on touchpad 50 (which is displayed in optional display 52) as an instruction for microwave oven 40. The instruction pattern "C" might be associated with the instruction "Cook". Another instruction pattern might be the letter "T" associated with the command "Time". For the latter, a second instruction pattern might be the length of time "1:00" for which the food must cook. Recognizer 56 recognizes the numbers in the second input pattern and provides them to microwave oven 40 as operation information, rather than as a command. In all cases, recognizer 56 provides the instruction associated with the recognized pattern to operating unit 59 (Fig. 2) which operates microwave oven 40 accordingly.

The instruction patterns can also be alphanumeric characters, each of which can be separately recognized. Thus, the user can input the following letters: "C", "O", "O" and "K" and recognizer 56 will recognize the letters individually, producing the string "cook". Recognizer 56 will then provide the string "cook" to the machine operating unit 50 of microwave oven 40 as the instruction.

Washing machine 42 (Fig. 3B) operates similarly, where the user provides input patterns to touchpad 50 based on a preset list of instructions. When the input pattern is recognized, the associated instruction is provided to the washing machine operating unit to operate washing machine 42 accordingly.

Remote control unit 44 (Fig. 3C) can be any type of remote control unit such as one controlling a television, a video cassette recorder (VCR), a stereo system, etc. Unit 44 utilizes instruction input unit 30 (shown as the separate touchpad 50, optional display 52 and recognition unit 54) to replace most, if not all, of the many buttons on prior art remote control units. Fig. 3C shows an example of a remote control unit having some numerical buttons 57 and touchpad 50, optional display 52 and recognition unit 54 of instruction input unit 30 for providing all other types of instructions, such as alphabetical instructions.

It will be appreciated that the present invention is a single user interface unit for a machine. Instruction input unit **30** replaces the multiple buttons of a machine with a single input unit capable of receiving many different types of input patterns.

5 As is known in the art of pattern recognition, recognition systems can also be trained with personal patterns. For example, and as shown in Figs. 4, 5A and 5B to which reference is now made, the combination touchpad - recognition unit can be utilized as a dial shortcut input unit for desktop (Fig. 5A) and cellular (Fig. 5B) telephones. Fig. 4 illustrates the shortcut input unit **60** in block diagram
10 format, Fig. 5A shows unit **60** in a desktop telephone **62** and Fig. 5B shows unit **60** in a cellular telephone **64**. Similar reference numerals of previous figures refer to similar elements.

Shortcut input unit **60** comprises touchpad **50**, optional display **52**, and a trainable recognition unit **70** and operates in conjunction with dialer **73** of either
15 telephone **62** or **64**. Dialer **73** forms part of telephone **62** or **64** and is the element which receives the telephone number from the user interface and instructs telephone **62** or **64** to dial the received telephone number. Shortcut input unit **60** can also operate with a keypad **72** which forms part of telephone **62** or **64**.

Trainable recognition unit **70** comprises a mode switch **80**, a trainable
20 recognizer **82**, and a trained library **84** in which are stored the patterns trained by the specific user of the telephone **62** or **64** and the telephone numbers associated with the patterns. Trainable recognizer **82** can be any suitable trainable recognizer, such as any of the recognizers cited hereinabove, which include a training ability, i.e. the ability to add patterns to library **84** in addition or instead of
25 any previously entered pattern or patterns.

When mode switch **80** is set to a "train" mode, trainable recognizer **82** receives a pattern provided by touchpad **50** as a shortcut pattern to be stored, rather than a pattern to be recognized. In addition, trainable recognizer **82** accepts the telephone number to be associated with the input shortcut pattern.
30 The input shortcut pattern and the telephone number are stored in library **84**, for later use in recognition. Thus, in the train mode, the user stores selected

telephone numbers and associates therewith a shortcut pattern (which can be any pattern, such as the name of the person who has the telephone number).

The user can provide the telephone number either via keypad **72** or by writing the telephone number on touchpad **50**. In order to receive the handwritten number to be associated with the input shortcut pattern, trainable recognizer **82** switches to a "handwriting recognition" mode in which recognizer **82** separately recognizes each of the numbers of the telephone number by matching them to a preset library of numerical patterns. The recognized telephone number is then associated with the already received shortcut pattern and stored in library **84**.

When mode switch **80** is set to a "pattern recognition" mode, trainable recognizer **82** attempts to match the input pattern provided by touchpad **50** to one or more of the shortcut patterns stored in library **84**.

Alternatively, the shortcut pattern can be a string of letters, presumably indicating the name of the person being called. For this, trainable recognizer **82** enters the handwriting recognition mode and recognizes each letter separately (as a standard letter, e.g. an ASCII letter). Trainable recognizer **82** then tries to match the resultant letter string to a previously stored string of letters to which the phone number is associated.

Trainable recognizer **82** then provides the telephone number associated with the matched shortcut pattern or recognized word to the dialer **73** of the relevant telephone **62** or **64**.

It will be appreciated that shortcut input unit **60** of Figs. 4, 5A and 5B enables a user to associate a telephone number with any desired shortcut pattern. It will further be appreciated that the present invention is operative with all types of telephones, including wall mounted and wireless telephones.

Reference is now made to Figs. 6, 7A and 7B which illustrate a further embodiment of the present invention as an identification unit **90**. Fig. 6 is a block diagram of the elements and Figs. 7A and 7B are schematic illustrations of the use of identification unit **90** in a house or room door **92** and a car door **94**, respectively. It will be appreciated that the present invention incorporates all doors, including safe doors, and all types of lock mechanisms.

Identification unit **90** comprises touchpad **50**, optional display **52** and a trainable, security recognition unit **96**. Unit **90** controls a lock mechanism **100**. An exemplary lock mechanism **100** is an electronic lock of the type commonly found on hotel doors.

5 Security recognition unit **96** comprises a mode switch **102**, a trainable recognizer **104**, and a personal key library **106** in which are stored at least one identification pattern associated with an owner of the car or room. Trainable recognizer **104** is similar to trainable recognizer **82** and will not be described in more detail.

10 In the train mode, the room or car owner produces an identification pattern, such as his signature, on touchpad **50** which, in turn, provides the identification pattern to trainable recognizer **104** for storage in personal key library **106**. One or more identification patterns can be stored in library **106**.

 In the recognition mode, identification unit **90** determines whether or not
15 the identification pattern produced on touchpad **50** matches one of the identification patterns stored in personal key library **106**. If the identification pattern does match, then trainable recognizer **104** provides an "open door" activation signal to lock mechanism **100**. If there is no match, the activation signal is not produced and the incorrect owner cannot enter the car or room. If lock
20 mechanism **100** is connected also to an alarm system, lock mechanism **100** can activate the alarm system whenever trainable recognizer **104** provides a signal indicating that an identification pattern was received but it did not match the stored identification patterns.

 It will be appreciated that identification unit **90** provides a non-key
25 mechanism for securing doors. This is of particular relevance to hotels, where guests often lose their keys. A hotel can replace the key mechanisms of the guest room doors with identification unit **90** and can have a central personal key library **106**. In this embodiment, the training process typically occurs as the guest registers at the hotel and the identification pattern is stored in the central personal
30 key library along with the room number, or numbers, that the guest has rented. A

date can also be associated with the identification pattern, after which the identification pattern is no longer valid.

In this embodiment, when a guest draws his identification pattern on the identification unit **90** associated with a room, the recognizer **104**, which can be a central recognizer or one forming part of the door, accesses the central library **106** to match the identification pattern with the identification pattern associated with that room, activating the lock mechanism only if there is a match. Many identification patterns can be associated with a room if many people are staying in the room.

In the car embodiment of Fig. 7B, identification unit **90** replaces the standard key mechanism and activates the lock mechanism **100** only if the identification pattern matches a previously stored identification pattern. Furthermore, identification unit **90** can also be utilized to secure the trunk and/or to secure the car ignition mechanism. In the latter case, the lock mechanism **100** will disconnect the ignition if the wrong identification pattern is provided. Lock mechanism **100** can also be connected to an alarm system and can provide an alarm when the wrong identification pattern is provided.

An alternative identification unit can be produced to provide additional security for credit cards. This is illustrated in Figs. 8A, 8B, 9, **10A** and **10B** to which reference is now made. Fig. 8A illustrates, in block diagram format, the elements of a credit card trainer **110** and Fig. 8B isometrically illustrates credit card trainer **110**. Fig. 9 illustrates the elements of an authenticator **120** and Figs. **10A** and **10B** illustrate the elements of authenticator **120** within a credit card authorizer **122** and an automatic teller machine (ATM) **124**.

Credit card trainer **110** (Figs. 8A, 8B) imprints the identification pattern of the card owner within the memory strip **112** of a credit card **114** or within a "smart card". To this end, trainer **110** comprises touchpad **50**, optional display **52**, a pattern trainer **116** and a pattern imprinter **115**. Pattern trainer **116** comprises the training elements of trainable recognition units **82** and **104** and is operative to train one or more identification patterns. Once training has ended, pattern trainer **116** provides the trained identification patterns to pattern imprinter **115** which writes

the trained identification pattern to memory strip **112**. Pattern imprinter **115** can be any suitable credit card memory strip imprinter, such as are known in the art.

Typically, credit card trainer **110** is located wherever credit cards are provided to a user, such as at a bank or at an ATM. The credit card is placed
5 within trainer **110**, as shown in Fig. 8B and the credit card owner draws his identification pattern on touch pad **50** of trainer **110** in accordance with instructions provided by pattern trainer **116**. When the identification pattern has been sufficiently trained, pattern trainer **116** provides the identification pattern (or patterns) to pattern imprinter **115** which, in turn, writes the identification pattern on
10 the memory strip **112**. As a result, credit card **114** becomes a transportable "library" of identification patterns for the credit card owner.

As shown in Fig. 9, authenticator **120** comprises touchpad **50**, optional display **52**, a credit card reader **126** and a recognizer **128**. Credit card reader **126** reads the identification pattern from memory strip **112** of the credit card to be
15 authenticated and recognizer **128** compares the identification pattern with the identification pattern produced from touchpad **50**. If the two patterns match, recognizer **128** provides an authentication signal to either credit card authorizer **122** or ATM **124**. Otherwise, recognizer **128** provides a non-authorization signal.

When the credit card owner wishes to utilize his credit card, such as at a
20 store or at an ATM, he passes the credit card through the strip **130** (Figs. 10A and 10B) of credit card reader **126**. At the same time, the credit card owner writes his identification pattern onto touchpad **50** of authenticator **120**. Recognizer **128** compares the two patterns and provides an authentication signal if the two patterns match. Credit card authorizer **122** utilizes the authentication signal to
25 enable crediting of the sale to the credit card. ATM **124** utilizes the authentication signal to enable the credit card owner to perform bank transactions.

Alternatively (not shown), credit card trainer **110** can store the identification pattern within a central database in which the identification pattern is associated with the number of credit card **114**. In this embodiment, credit card
30 trainer **110** does not include pattern imprinter **115** and authenticator **120** retrieves

the identification pattern from the central database rather than from credit card memory strip **112**.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the present invention is not limited to what has been particularly shown and described
5 hereinabove. Rather the scope of the present invention is defined only by the claims which follow:

CLAIMS

1. An instruction input unit for supplying operating instructions to a machine, the unit comprising:
 - a. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user;
 - 5 b. an instruction library storing a multiplicity of operating instruction patterns wherein each operating instruction pattern has an operating instruction associated therewith; and
 - 10 c. a recognizer for detecting which of said multiplicity of operating instructions patterns said input pattern most closely matches and for providing the operating instruction associated with the matched operating instruction pattern to said machine.
- 15 2. A unit according to claim 1 and wherein said machine is an appliance.
3. A unit according to claim 2 and wherein said appliance is one of the following group: a microwave oven, a washing machine and a remote control unit.
- 20 4. A unit according to claim 1 and wherein said recognizer also includes a handwriting recognizer for recognizing alphanumeric characters.
- 25 5. An operatable machine comprising:
 - a. an instruction input unit for receiving operating instructions from a user and for supplying said operating instructions to said machine; and
 - b. a machine operating unit receiving said operating instructions from said instruction unit, wherein said instruction input unit comprises:
 - i. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user;

- ii. an instruction library storing a multiplicity of operating instruction patterns wherein each operating instruction pattern has an operating instruction associated therewith; and
 - 5 iii. a recognizer for detecting which of said multiplicity of operating instructions patterns said input pattern most closely matches and for providing the operating instruction associated with the matched operating instruction pattern to said machine.
- 10 6. A shortcut input unit for providing telephone numbers to be dialed to a telephone, the unit comprising:
- a. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user;
 - b. a shortcut library capable of receiving and storing a multiplicity of shortcut patterns wherein each shortcut
 - 15 pattern has a telephone number associated therewith; and
 - c. a trainable recognizer having a training mode and a recognition mode, wherein, in said training mode, said trainable recognizer associates telephone numbers received from said user with shortcut patterns received from
 - 20 said user via said touchpad and in said recognition mode, said trainable recognizer detects which of said multiplicity of shortcut patterns an input pattern received from said user most closely matches and provides the telephone number associated with the matched shortcut pattern to said
 - 25 telephone.
7. A shortcut input unit according to claim 6 and wherein said telephone is one of the following group: a cellular telephone, a wireless telephone and a desktop telephone.

8. A shortcut input unit according to claim 6 and wherein said recognizer also includes a handwriting recognizer for recognizing alphanumeric characters.
9. A telephone comprising:
- 5 a. a dialer for dialing a telephone number; and
- b. a shortcut input unit for providing telephone numbers to be dialed to said dialer, wherein the shortcut input unit comprises:
- 10 i. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user;
- ii. a shortcut library capable of receiving and storing a multiplicity of shortcut patterns wherein each shortcut pattern has a telephone number associated therewith; and
- 15 iii. a trainable recognizer having a training mode and a recognition mode, wherein, in said training mode, said trainable recognizer associates telephone numbers received from said user with shortcut patterns received from said user via said touchpad and in said recognition mode, said trainable
- 20 recognizer detects which of said multiplicity of shortcut patterns an input pattern received from said user most closely matches and provides the telephone number associated with the matched shortcut pattern to said telephone.
- 25 10. An identification unit comprising:
- a. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user;
- b. an identifier library for at least storing at least one identifier pattern; and

- c. a recognizer for detecting if said input pattern matches one of said at least one identifier patterns and for providing an authorization signal only if a match is detected.
- 11. An identification unit according to claim 10 and wherein said
5 recognizer is a trainable recognizer and said identifier library is capable of receiving trained identifier patterns.
- 12. An identification unit according to any of claims 10 - 11 and wherein said identifier pattern is a signature.
- 13. A lock comprising:
 - 10 a. an identification unit according to any of claims 10 - 12; and
 - b. a locking mechanism which unlocks upon receipt of said authorization signal.
- 14. A lock according to claim 13 wherein said locking mechanism
15 locks a door to a door frame.
- 15. A lock according to claim 14 wherein said door is part of a car.
- 16. A lock according to claim 14 wherein said door is part of a room.
- 17. A lock according to claim 16 wherein said room is a guest room of a hotel.
- 20 18. A credit card authorizer for authorizing the use of a credit card having a memory strip, the memory strip storing at least one identifier pattern, the authorizer comprising:
 - a. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user; and
 - b. a recognizer for detecting if said input pattern matches one
25 of said at least one identifier patterns and for providing an authorization signal only if a match is detected.
- 19. An automatic teller machine having a credit card authorizer according to claim 18.

20. A credit card writer for writing information into a memory strip of a credit card, the credit card writer comprising:
- a. a touchpad for receiving an input pattern from a user;
 - b. a credit card imprinter for imprinting said input pattern into
- 5 said memory strip of said credit card.

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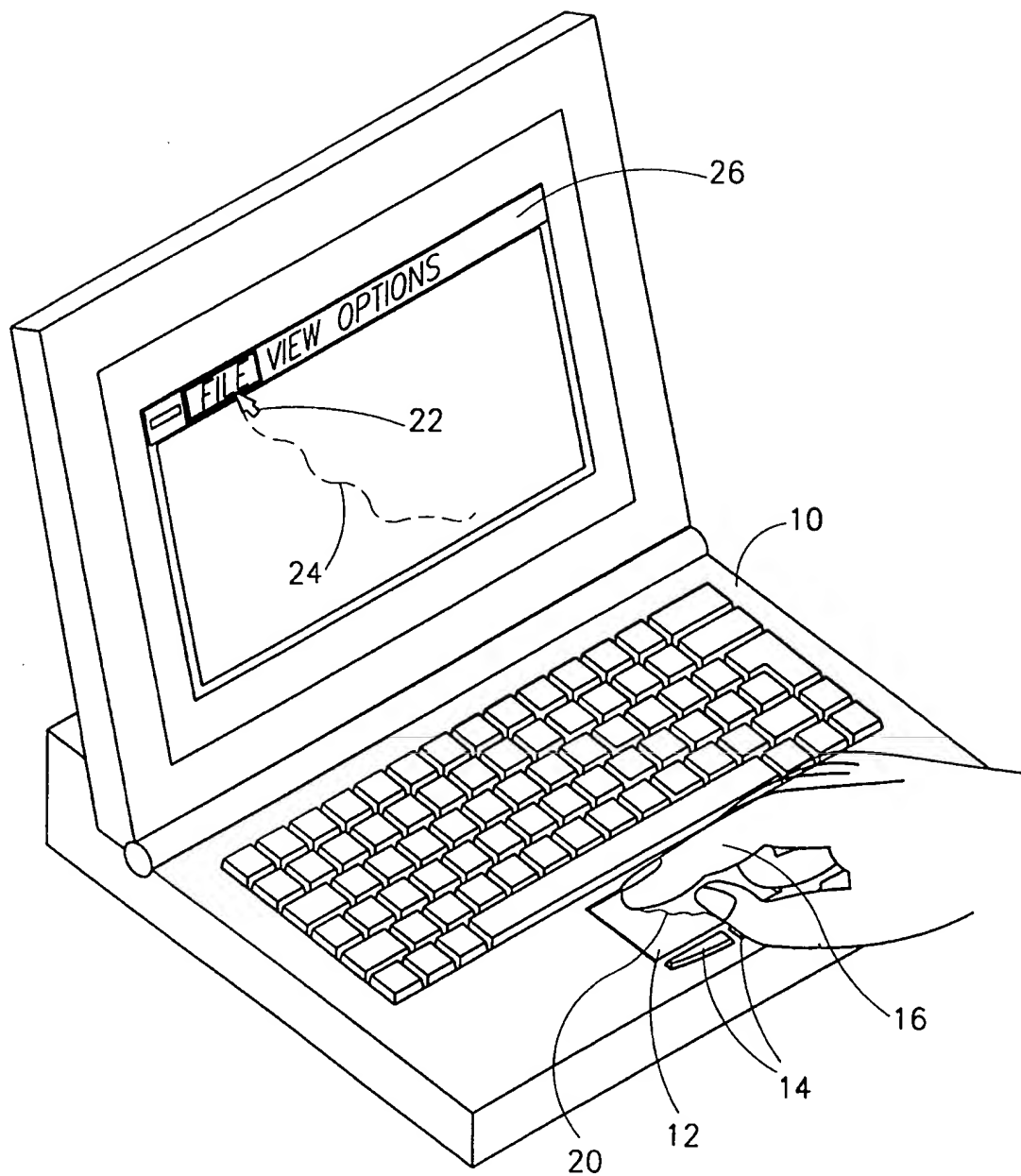


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

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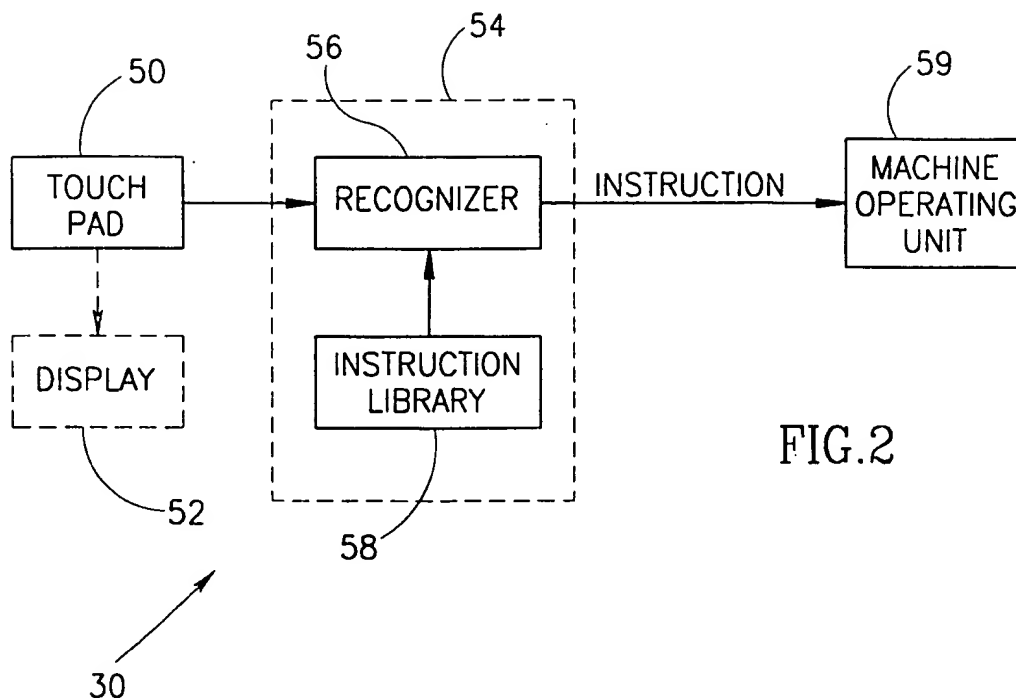


FIG. 2

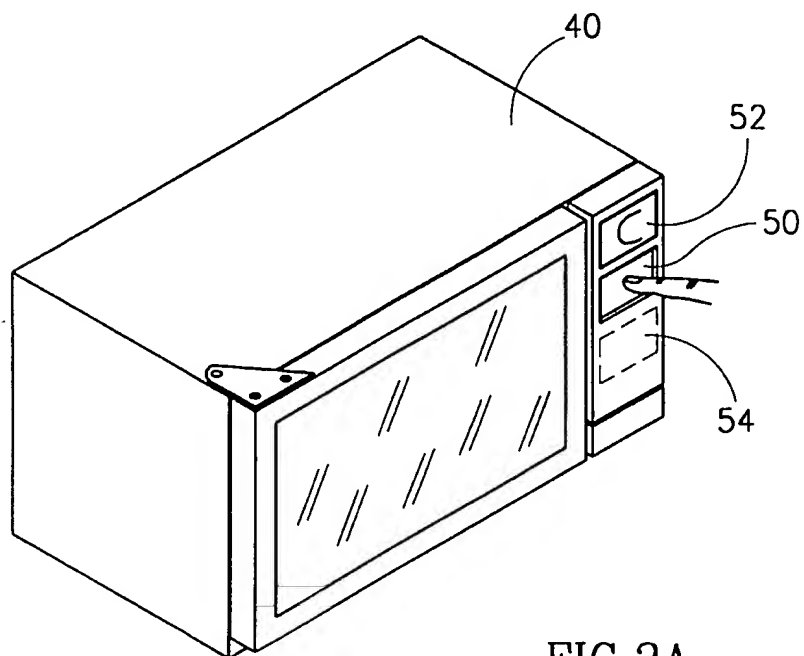


FIG. 3A

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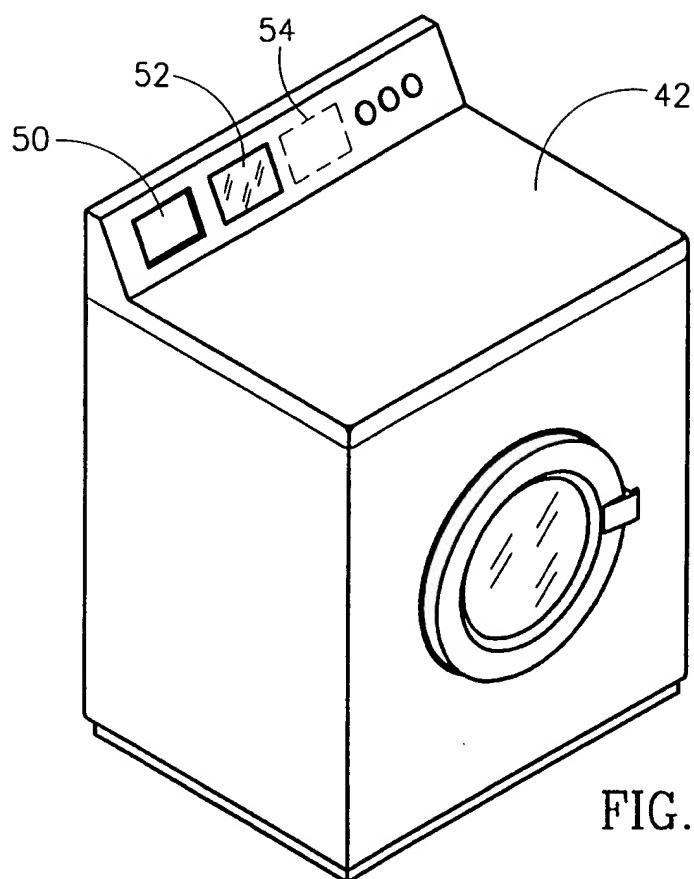


FIG. 3B

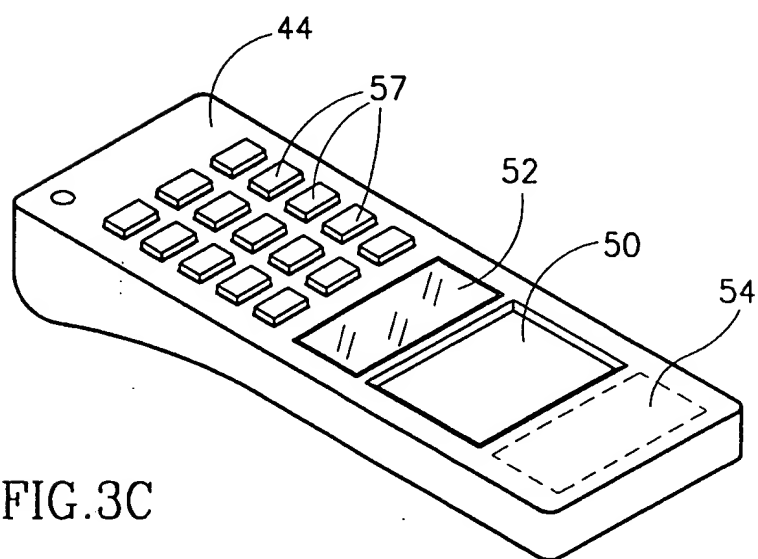


FIG. 3C

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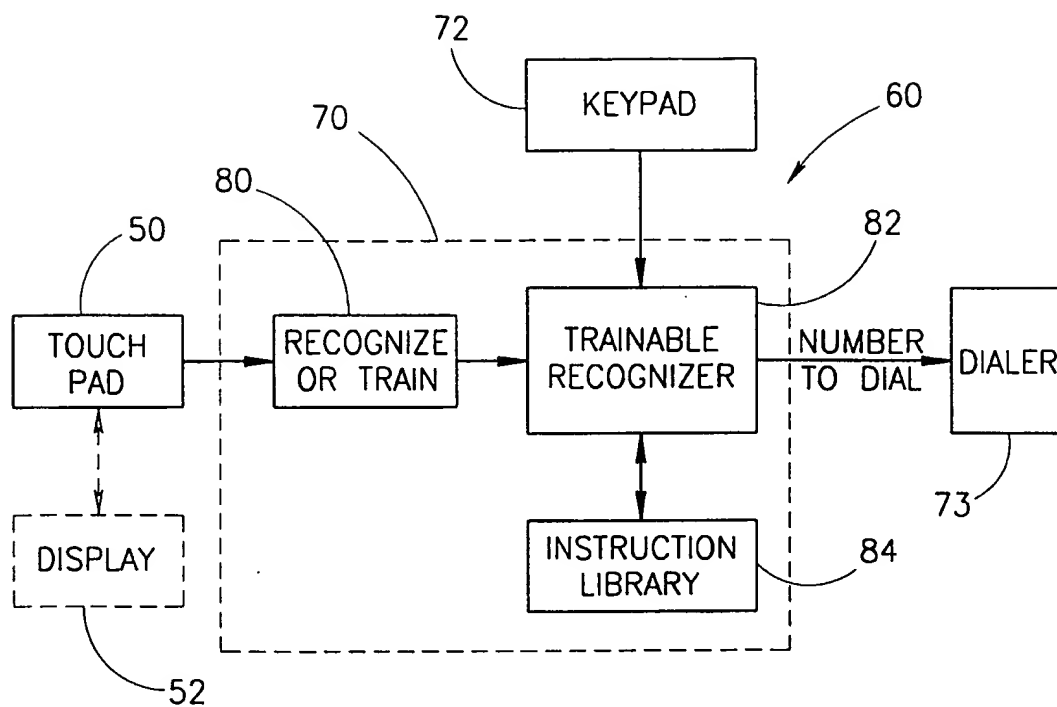


FIG.4

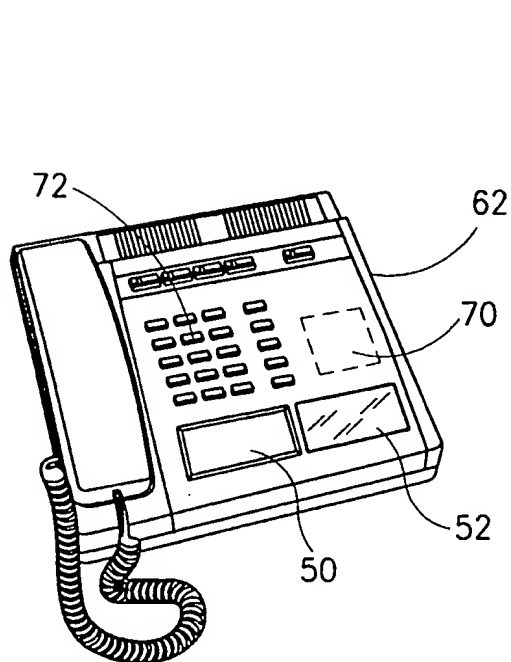


FIG.5A

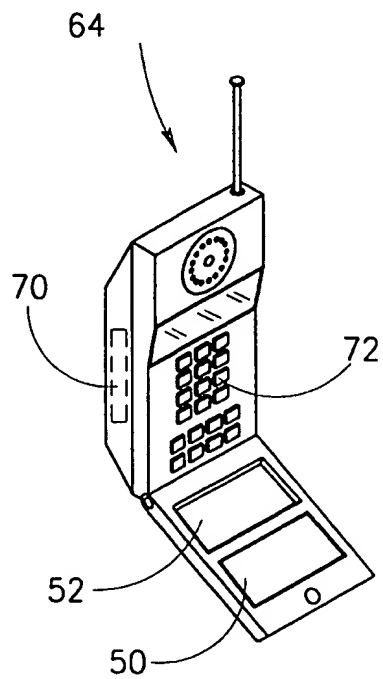


FIG.5B

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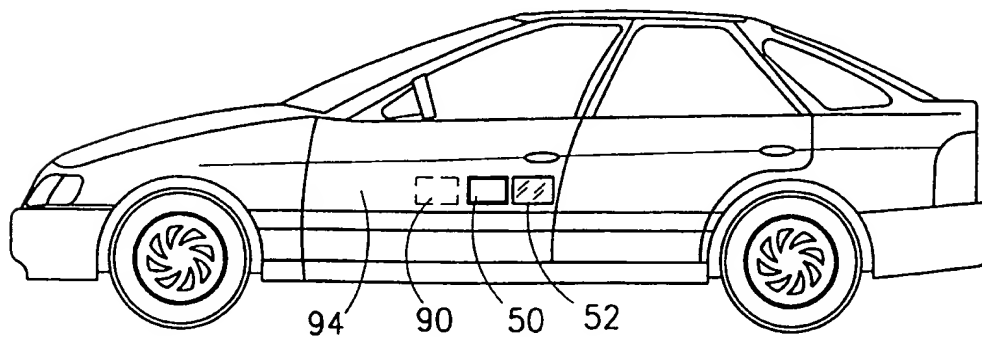
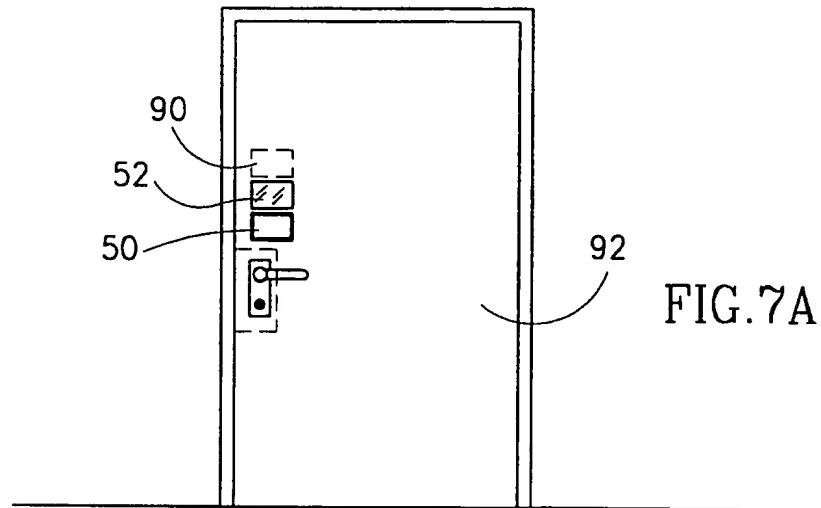
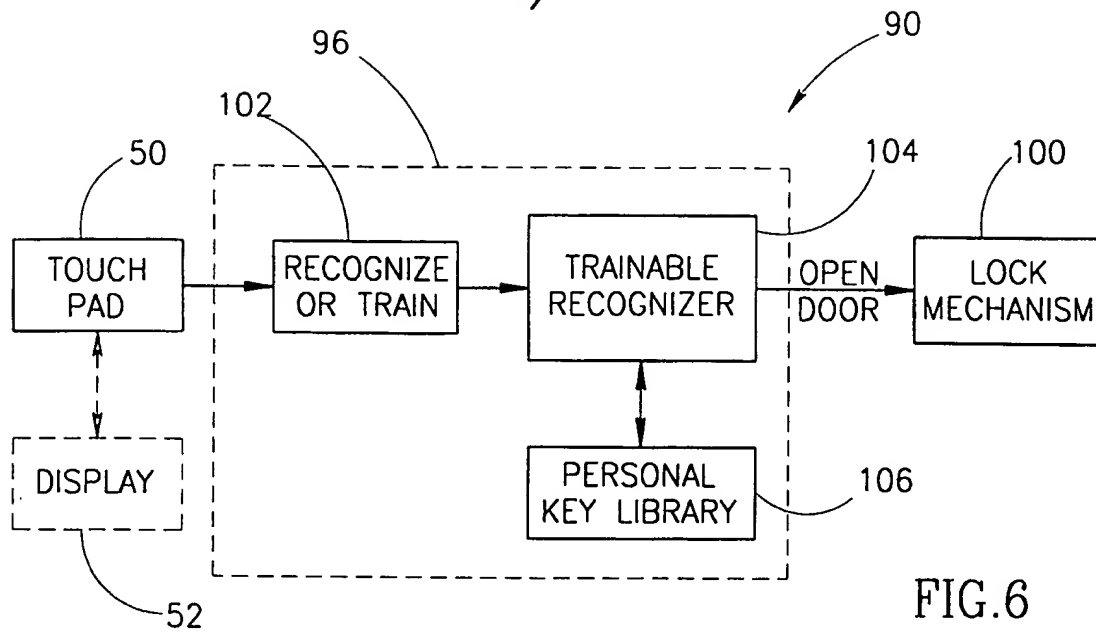


FIG. 7B

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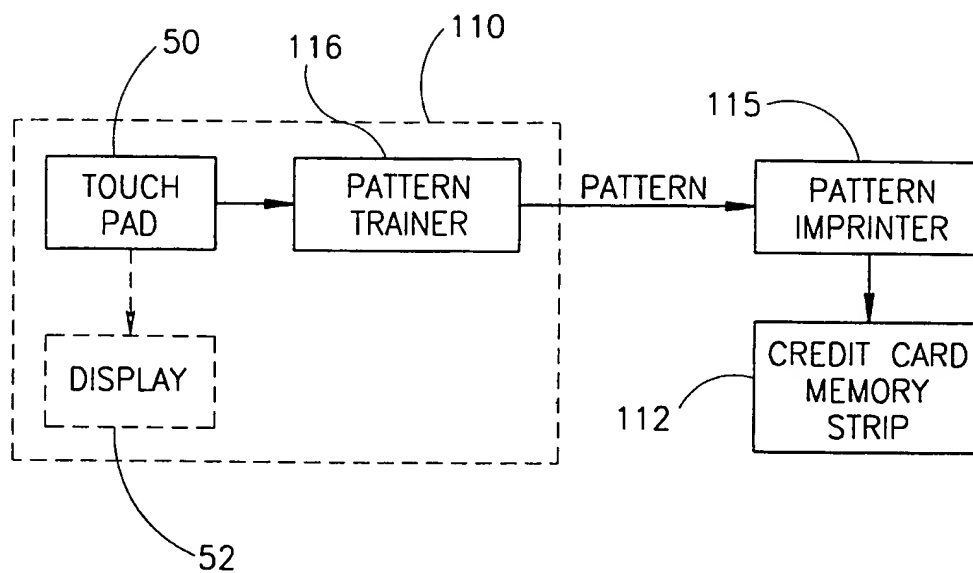


FIG. 8A

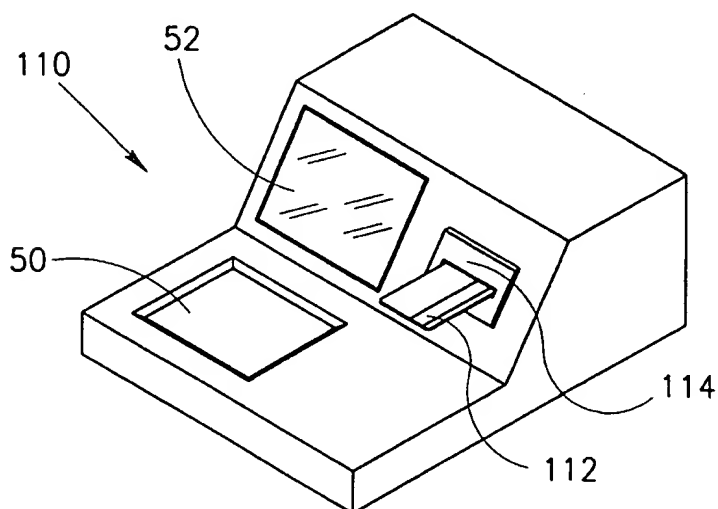


FIG. 8B

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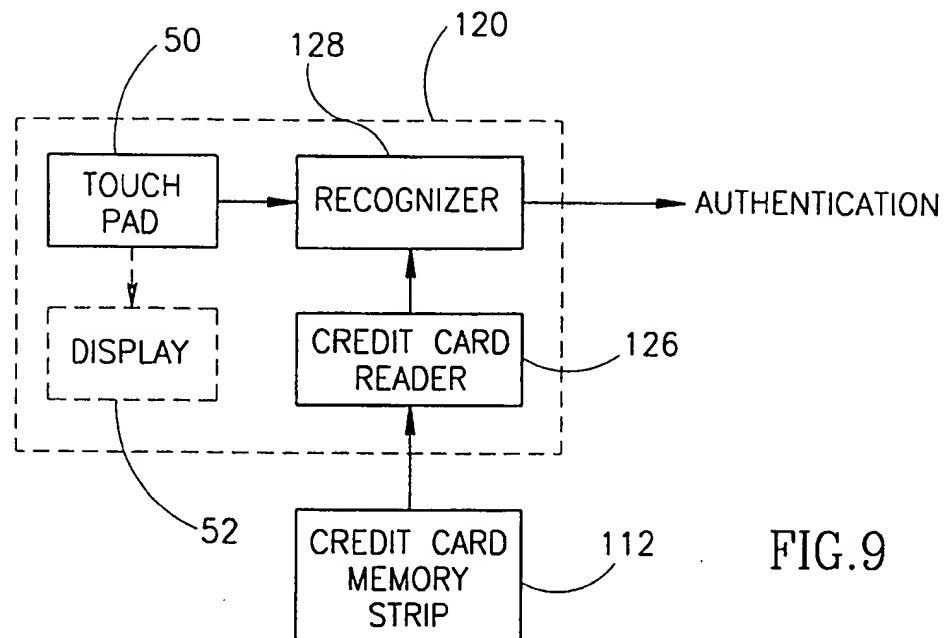


FIG. 9

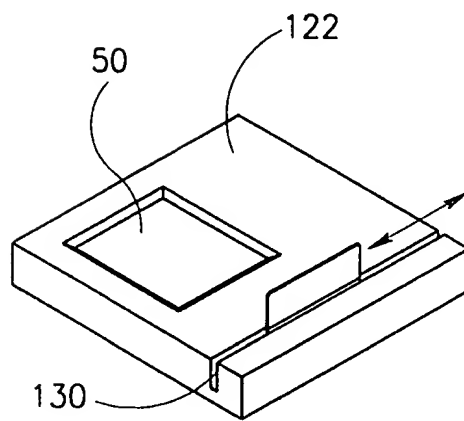


FIG. 10A

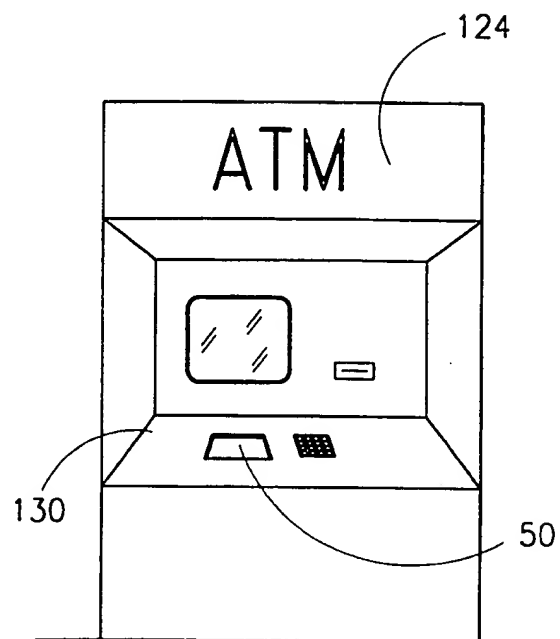


FIG. 10B